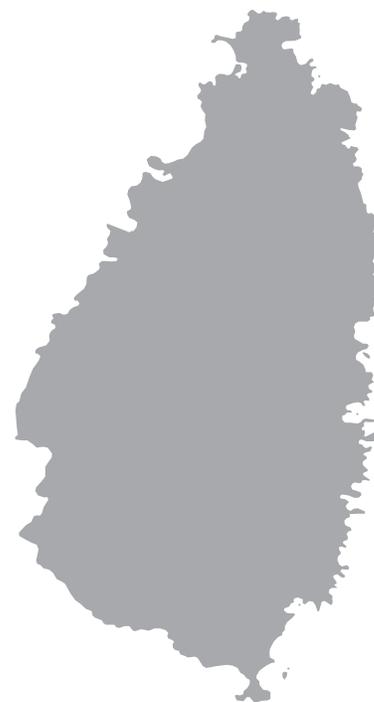


In 2013, Saint Lucia made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government ratified the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*. The Government also ratified the *Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict and the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons*. In addition, the Government continued to fund education initiatives, including after-school programs, transportation subsidies, and school meals. However, although evidence is limited, children in Saint Lucia are reported to engage in child labor in agriculture and in the worst forms of child labor in commercial sexual exploitation. Saint Lucia also continues to face legislative gaps. The law does not fully protect children from exploitation in pornography and illicit activities, and the Government has not adopted a list of hazardous activities prohibited for children. Further, Saint Lucia has not conducted research to assess the nature and scope of child labor.



## I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Although evidence is limited, children in Saint Lucia are reported to engage in child labor in agriculture and in the worst forms of child labor in commercial sexual exploitation.(1-4) Table 1 provides key indicators on children’s work and education in Saint Lucia. Data on some of these indicators are not available from the sources used in this report.

**Table 1. Statistics on Children’s Work and Education**

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Attending School (%)	5-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Combining Work and School (%)	7-14 yrs.	Unavailable
Primary Completion Rate (%)		91.6

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2012, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2014.(5)

Source for all other data: *Understanding Children’s Work Project’s analysis*, 2014.(6)

Based on a review of available information, Table 2 provides an overview of children’s work by sector and activity.

**Table 2. Overview of Children’s Work by Sector and Activity**

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Harvesting bananas* (1, 7, 8)
Services	Street vending* (1, 7)
	Washing cars* (1, 7)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor‡	Commercial sexual exploitation* (3, 4)

\* Evidence of this activity is limited and/or the extent of the problem is unknown.

‡ Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor *per se* under Article 3(a) – (c) of ILO C. 182.

Recent reports indicate that children are sometimes engaged in commercial sexual exploitation with the knowledge or encouragement of parents in situations of financial need.(3) Research has found no evidence of a comprehensive study of the nature and prevalence of child labor in Saint Lucia.

## II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Saint Lucia has ratified most key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

# Saint Lucia

## MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

**Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor**

	Convention	Ratification
	ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	
	ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
	UN CRC	✓
	UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
	UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓
	Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

In 2014, the Government of Saint Lucia ratified the UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict.(9) Also during the reporting period, the Government ratified the UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, as well as the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.(10, 11)

The Government has established relevant laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4).

**Table 4. Laws and Regulations Related to Child Labor**

Standard	Yes/No	Age	Related Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	15	Labor Code; Labor Code Amendment Act (12, 13)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Employees (Occupational Health and Safety) Act (14)
List of Hazardous Occupations Prohibited for Children	No		
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Constitution; Labor Code (12, 15)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7 (16)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Criminal Code (17)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	No		
Minimum Age for Compulsory Military Recruitment	N/A*		
Minimum Age for Voluntary Military Service	N/A*		
Compulsory Education Age	Yes	15	Education Act (8, 18)
Free Public Education	Yes		Education Act (18)

\*No conscription or no standing military.

Article 23 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act prohibits the employment of persons under age 18 in industrial undertakings, which may include working with machinery and in extreme temperatures.(1, 14, 19) However, Article 23 states that young persons who have attained the age of 16 but not yet 18 may engage in these activities if they are supervised as part of an apprenticeship or vocational training program.(14) This provision may expose these children to hazardous work. In addition, research found no evidence that the Government has adopted a comprehensive list of hazardous activities prohibited for children that includes non-industrial sectors.(2, 20)

Research found no evidence that Saint Lucia has laws that prohibit the use of children in the production of pornography or that prohibit the use of children in illicit activities, such as drug trafficking.(20, 21)

Saint Lucia does not have a standing military, and the police force is responsible for the security of the country. The minimum age for recruitment to the police force is 18.(7, 22)

Article 16 of the Education Act guarantees free tuition for children attending public institutions. However, other unspecified charges may be applied if approved by the Education Minister.(18)

### III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 5).

**Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement**

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry for Education, Human Resource Development, and Labor (MEHRDL)	Enforce laws on child labor, in part through labor inspections conducted by its Department of Labor.(7, 20, 21)
Royal Saint Lucia Police Force	Enforce criminal laws related to the worst forms of child labor. Contains a Vulnerable Persons Unit that investigates cases of child labor, abuse, and neglect, and works in collaboration with the Division of Human Services.(1, 2, 23) Utilizes a specific manual for the investigation of crimes related to children.(7)

Labor law enforcement agencies in Saint Lucia took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms. However, research found no evidence that criminal law enforcement agencies took such actions during the reporting period.(7)

#### *Labor Law Enforcement*

In 2013, Saint Lucia's seven labor inspectors conducted general labor inspections, during which they looked for indications of child labor. While there were no reported child labor violations, the number of inspections carried out is unknown.(7) Moreover, representatives from the Ministry for Education, Human Resource Development, and Labor (MEHRDL) noted that the current number of inspectors is insufficient to carry out their responsibilities and that no specific training on child labor was provided for them.(7)

### IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

**Table 6. Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor**

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations	Coordinate the investigation of child labor cases in collaboration with the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force using established protocols.(7)
Trafficking in Persons Task Force	Coordinate the detection and referral of cases of trafficking in persons among law enforcement, social service, and immigration officials pursuant to the Counter-Trafficking Act.(7, 16) Currently developing a national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons with the participation of IOM.(7)

### V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government of Saint Lucia has established policies related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 7).

**Table 7. Policies Related to Child Labor**

Policy	Description
ILO Decent Work Country Program for Saint Lucia (2010-2015)	Promotes economic development, poverty reduction, and legislative strengthening in Saint Lucia that is consistent with international labor standards, including those on child labor.(24)

Research did not find evidence of policies that address all worst forms of child labor, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

In November 2013, the Government participated in the XVIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor to foster continued dialogue and cooperation on labor issues throughout the Americas. The joint declaration of the Conference promotes social dialogue to address child labor and reaffirms country participants' commitment to work with civil society organizations to advance efforts toward the eradication of child labor.(25)

# Saint Lucia

## MODERATE ADVANCEMENT

### VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

In 2013, the Government of Saint Lucia funded programs that may have an impact on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 8).

**Table 8. Social Programs to Address Child Labor**

Program	Description
Ministry of Education programming*‡	Fosters school attendance by providing a book bursary, school meal program, and a transit subsidy program at most secondary schools.(7)
Ministry of Social Transformation, Youth and Sports after school programming*‡	Improves academic performance and maintains school attendance among underprivileged children between the ages of 8 and 16 years by providing after-school activities, including assistance with homework and various recreational activities.(7, 23)

\*The impact of this program on child labor does not appear to have been studied.

‡ Program is funded by the Government of Saint Lucia.

Despite these programs, the Government does not have specific initiatives that target and assist children involved in agriculture, street work, and commercial sexual exploitation.

### VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor, including its worst forms, in Saint Lucia (Table 9).

**Table 9. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Laws	Amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to prohibit all involvement in hazardous work for all children under the age of 18.	2013
	Adopt a comprehensive list of hazardous activities prohibited for children, including in non-industrial sectors.	2009 – 2013
	Draft and adopt legislation to prohibit the use, procuring, or offering of a child for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances.	2011 – 2013
	Draft and adopt legislation to prohibit procuring or offering a child for illicit activities, including drug trafficking and production.	2011 – 2013
	Amend the Education Act to prohibit any discretionary approval of monetary charges at public schools and assisted private schools.	2013
Enforcement	Ensure that criminal law enforcement agencies conduct investigations of the worst forms of child labor, and make their results publicly available.	2013
	Increase the number of labor inspectors to ensure child labor laws are adequately enforced.	2011 – 2013
	Make information on the number of inspections for child labor and their results publicly available.	2012 – 2013
	Provide child labor and human trafficking training to all relevant authorities.	2012 – 2013
Government Policies	Adopt policies that specifically address the worst forms of child labor, including the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2010 – 2013
Social Programs	Conduct a comprehensive study to assess the nature and extent of the worst forms of child labor in the country and use the results to inform policies and programs that address these practices.	2009 – 2013
	Determine the impact of educational and after school programs on child labor.	2011 – 2013
	Design and implement social programs that specifically target and assist children engaged in the worst forms of child labor, including in agriculture and commercial sexual exploitation.	2013

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